Clayton, Rabun Co., is near the North and South Carolina lines, and is surrounded by mountains rising to 3,500 feet and is itself at an altitude of 1,800 feet.

Stone Mt. is in Decatur Co., 16 miles from Atlanta.

Offerman is in Pierce Co., with conditions very similar to Blackshear. I collected along the Satilla River, about 4 miles from the station.

Williamsonia, a New Genus of Dragonflies from North America.

By Wm. T. Davis, New Brighton, Staten Island, N. Y.

While examining the collection of dragonflies in the American Museum of Natural History I came upon a female example of a species unknown to me. It bore the label "Paterson, N. J., May 4," and had been collected and presented to the Museum by Mr. John A. Grossbeck.

Reference to the "Key of North American Genera of Cordulinæ" on page 484 of Dr. Needham's "Aquatic Insects in the Adirondacks" placed the specimen in division "a" having "Veins M4 and Cu1 in the fore wing parallel or a little divergent apically, the number of rows of cells between them increasing toward the margin of the wing." The only genus placed in this section is *Neurocordulia* to which belongs *N. obsoleta* Say and *N. yamaskarensis* Provancher. In these insects, however, the triangles and subtriangles of the fore wings are often divided into three cells by cross veins, the triangles of the hind wings also have each a cross vein, while in the New Jersey specimen all the triangles of both wings are open, that is without any cross veins. *Neurocordulia* has many cells in the space beyond the anal loop, while the specimen in question has but a few and these arranged in three rows.

In a foot note on page 484 already referred to, Dr. Needham says in reference to section "a" of his table, "One species, the little *Cordulia lintneri* of Hagen, may seem to belong in this section of the table, though of course not in the genus *Neurocordulia*; it is also a synthetic type, lacking the special corduline features of venation, which I take to be (1) the approximation of veins M4 and Cu1, and (2) the general reduction of cross veins; it shows strong libelluline affinities in the conformation of the anal loop and

in the possession of a half-antenodal cross vein just before the nodus. . . . I leave it here in the genus *Dorocordulia* beside the two species with which it has hitherto been associated."

The New Jersey specimen proved to be the *lintneri* of Hagen, and Mr. E. B. Williamson has since kindly checked up my determination. The genus *Dorocordulia* in which this species has been placed has the triangle of the fore wing open, subtriangle of hind wing not present, also veins M4 and Cu1 in the fore wing approximated toward the margin of the wing. These characters are good for *Dorocordulia lepida* and *Dorocordulia libera*, but will not cover *lintneri*, which has the triangles open in the specimen in question, subtriangles of hind wing absent, but veins M4 and Cu1 are separated much as in *Neurocordulia*, that is the number of cells between them increases toward the margin of the wing.

As to whether the triangles of the fore wings have cross veins or are without them must not be considered of too great importance, for a series of thirteen specimens of the allied *Helocordulia uhleri* in the author's collection may be arranged as follows:

5 ♂, 2 ♀ with cross veins in both the triangles and subtriangles.

1 ♂ with triangles open, but a vein in each of the subtriangles.

1 ♂ with cross veins in both triangles and subtriangles in the left wing, while the right wing has the triangles open.

2 ♂ with both the triangles and subtriangles open.

1 ♀ with triangles open but cross veins in both subtriangles.

1 ♀ with cross veins in both triangles in the right wing, while the left wing has the triangle open and a cross vein in the subtriangle.

According to Dr. Hagen, Psyche, 5, p. 373, 1890, the unnamed figure 1, Plate 16 in Emmons's account of the More Common and Injurious Species of Insects of the State of New York, is his *Cordulia lintneri*. This figure distinctly shows a cross vein in each of the triangles of the fore wings. Later in the same article Dr. Hagen says of *Cordulia lintneri*, "The position of this rather eccentric, small species is near *C. uhleri*, but it is separated from that species by unusual characters. The anal angles of the hind wings of the male are nearly rounded; all triangles are without transversal veins; only one series of discoidal cells, and a very plain venation." Dr. E. P. Felt has kindly examined the male type of *lintneri* Hagen in the State Museum at Albany, N. Y. and states that "there are no cross veins in either triangles or sub-

triangles of the fore or hind wings. The illustration by Emmons is incorrect so far as it relates to the type we have."

From the above observations on the wing venation of *lintneri* and from the accompanying plate it will be seen that it does not belong to the genus *Dorocordulia* its last resting place, which has veins M4 and Cu1 approximated near the margin of the fore wing. Reference to Mr. Williamson's paper "A New Dragonfly belonging to the Cordulinae and a Revision of the Classification of the Subfamily," Entomological News, XIX, p. 428, 1908, places *lintneri* in his second group on the majority of its characters and near the North American genera *Neurocordulia* and *Platycordulia*. It has been called a troublesome species, and probably the best thing to do is to make a new genus for it. I would propose the name *Williamsonia*, after Mr. Edward Bruce Williamson of Bluffton, Indiana, the well-known student of dragonflies, with *lintneri* as type of the genus. The table of North American genera may be reconstructed in part as follows:

a. Vein M4 and Cu1 in the fore wing a little divergent apically, the number of rows of cells between them increasing toward the margin of the wing.

b. Triangles and subtriangles of fore wing with cross veins. Hind wing with subtriangle. Two or more cubito-anal cross veins in both front and hind wings.

c. Hind wings broad with two rows of cells between anal loop and margin of wing.....*Platycordulia*.

Hind wings broad with one row of cells between anal loop and margin of wing.....*Neurocordulia*.

bb. Triangles and subtriangles of fore wing without cross veins. Hind wing without subtriangle. One cubito-anal cross vein in both front and hind wings. Wings unspotted expect at extreme base.....*Williamsonia*.

Following these genera would then come those having veins M4 and Cu1 in the fore wing approximated toward the margin of the wing.

Dr. Hagen in Pysche in the article above referred to states that two females of *lintneri* were collected at Saskatchewan, Lake Winnipeg, in 1860 by Robert Kennicott; that eight specimens, four males and four females were collected by Dr. Lintner on May 27, at Center near Albany, N. Y., and he adds that "It is very

interesting that this apparently arctic species is found in eastern New York." We may add that it is still more interesting that it should be found in New Jersey.

ON NOMENCLATURE.

The Principle of Priority—Its Use and Abuse.

The principle of priority in zoological nomenclature is fundamentally a rule of equity. Its chief end is to ensure to every man the credit and reward for his taxonomic endeavor and labors. It is, in brief, this—that the first to recognize and *describe* some living being as heretofore undiscovered shall get the credit and recognition due to his keener perceptions or greater knowledge. In the abstract, nothing can be urged against its application—its concrete workings are the subject of much heartburning, controversy, and even bitter recrimination. The difficulty is not with the law itself, but it lies in its application, or, rather, its non-observance. Every nomenclatorialist is, and has been, a law unto himself. When the strict application of priority has clashed with some cherished and long-familiar name, it has been ruthlessly sacrificed on some pretext or another. Few, if any, seem to have the courage to follow where logic leads them; fewer still are those who are impartial and impersonal enough to recognize and set aside their own prepossessions as cold-bloodedly as they do another's.

In nomenclature to-day we have *one* law of priority and as many applications as there are men. All profess entire allegiance to the principle, but—with exceptions. Dr. Puton, the noted French entomologist, in the preface to his Catalogue of the Palæarctic Hemiptera, does homage to priority "mitigated by a wise prescription." Lo! you! the milk in the cocoanut! Mitigation! Wisdom! Prescription! Who shall judge as to the mitigation? Whose wisdom shall apply? Who shall set the prescriptive limits? Shall it devolve upon the users of the law? Shall it be governed by an oligarchic Committee? Shall it be finally, the plaything of each and every Zoological Congress to be changed perhaps every year according to the dominant sentiment in a more or less heterogeneous and (on this point), uninformed assemblage? In